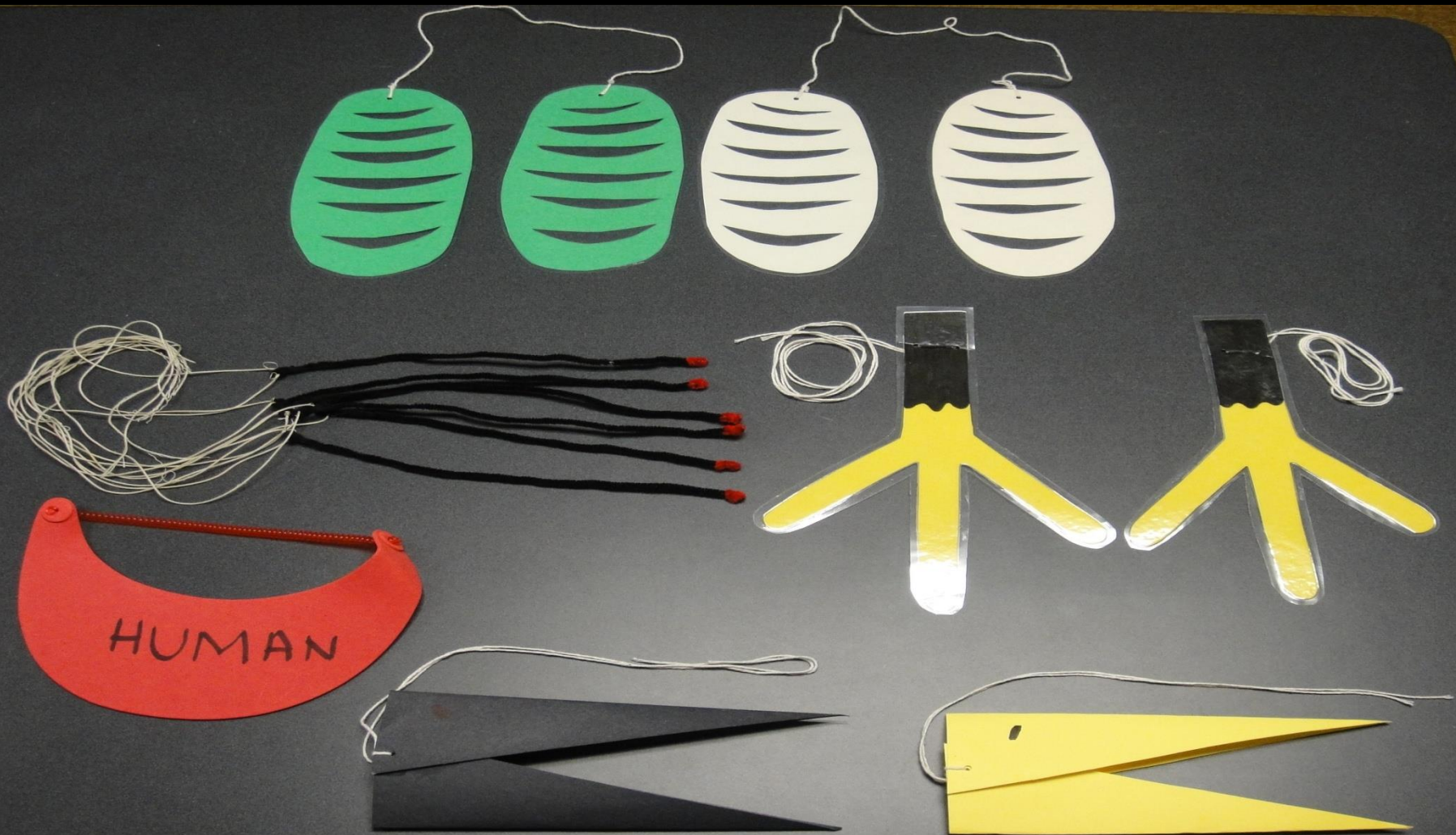


Break the Chain Melodrama

Templates, Instructions, and More...



Don't Let it Loose Activity Guide

Break the Chain Melodrama

Yep, we heard you and we are responding! Here's help for creating props including: detailed instructions, pictures, templates, and a bit more. We tried to make it as pain free as possible and hopefully, you'll have some fun while you're at it.

Source: Everglades National Park, "Don't Let it Loose!" Activity Guide

Activity: Break the Chain, a melodrama (page 30 in guide)

Where can I find the guide: www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers and click the curriculum materials link

Materials and Roles

Materials Needed

Baseball cap or sun visor
Red and black pipe cleaners
Green, yellow, black, and beige construction paper
String (preferably waxed)
Glue
Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
Laminator and sheets (if available)

Roles and Props

Human – baseball cap or visor
Mosquito – proboscis (made from pipe cleaners)
Great Blue Heron – yellow beak
Snowy Egret – yellow feet & black beak
Mosquito fish – green gills
Pike killifish – beige gills

Role Assignment

Assign students as the following species (these numbers are only a suggestion based on a class of 25 students; please adjust to accommodate the number of students in your class)

1 human

10 mosquitoes

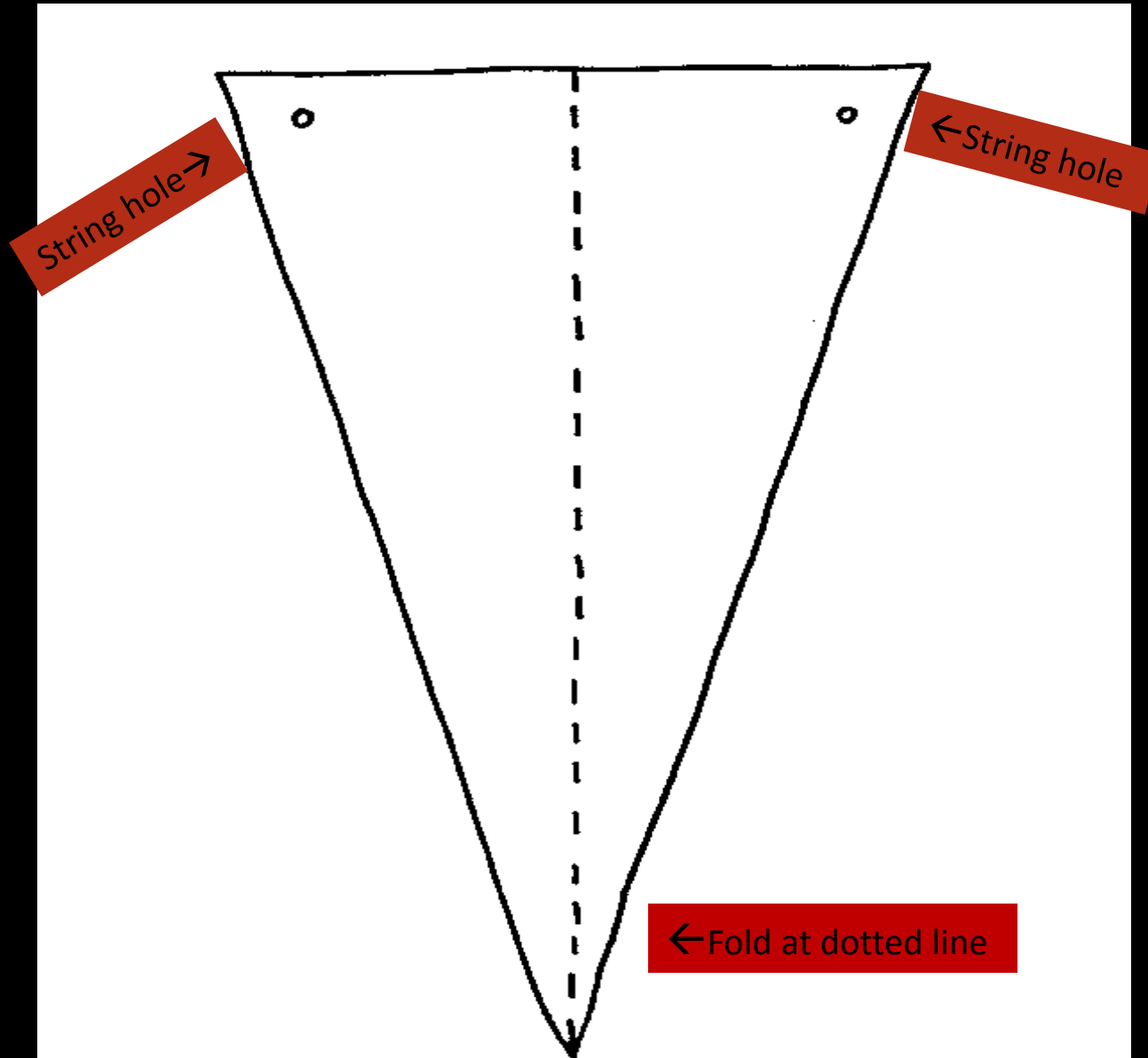
7 mosquito fish

1 Great Blue Heron

1 Snowy Egret

5 pike killifish

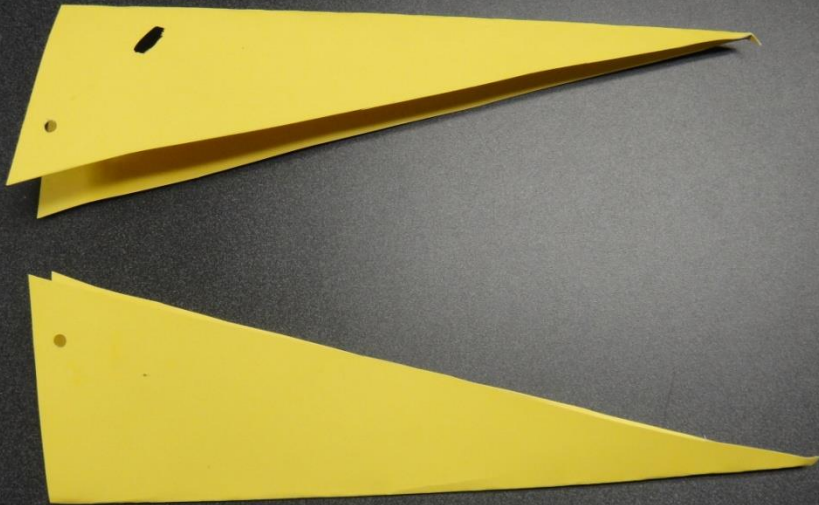
Beaks Template



Directions for Assembling Beaks

- ❖ Make two templates per beak. One for the top and one for the bottom.
- ❖ You will need one yellow beak for the Great Blue Heron and a black one for the Snowy Egret. We suggest making a few extra beaks to have as back-up in case your beaks get damaged.
- Tip: use colored poster board or construction paper.

Fold at the dotted line and place one over the other.



Align the holes on both sides.



Directions for Assembling Beaks

- ❖ Cut two 12 inch pieces of string (wax string works much better and doesn't get knotted).
- ❖ Pull one string through one side of the aligned string holes and knot it. Now you should have the top and bottom template held together on one side with about 11 inches of slack string. Flip your beak around and do the same to the other side.
- ❖ Make sure the string on each side is long enough to tie behind a person's head.



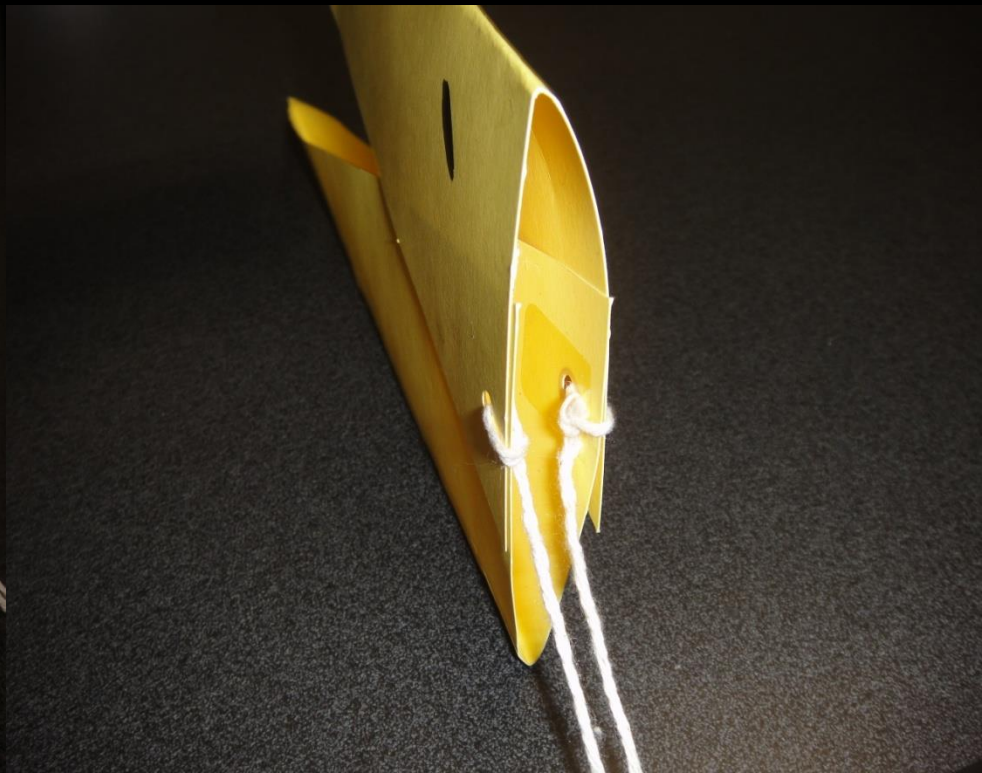
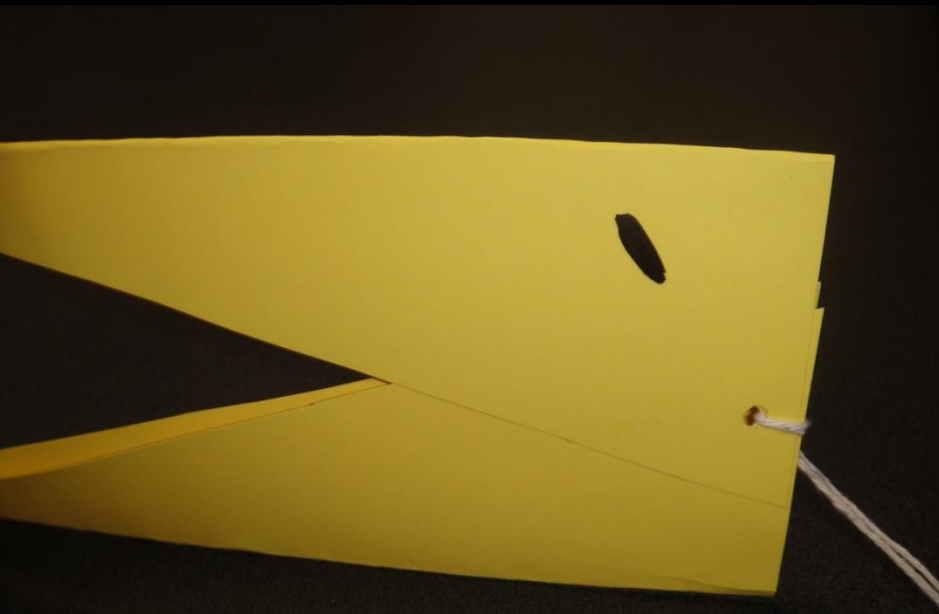
Flip it around and do the other side



Directions for Assembling Beaks

- ❖ This is what your beak should look like at this point.
- ❖ Draw in the eyes on both sides (some creativity here can make it even more fun).

And, then...



Directions for Assembling Beaks

Voilà, you have beaks!!!

The finished product



Beaks are enjoyed by kids of all ages!



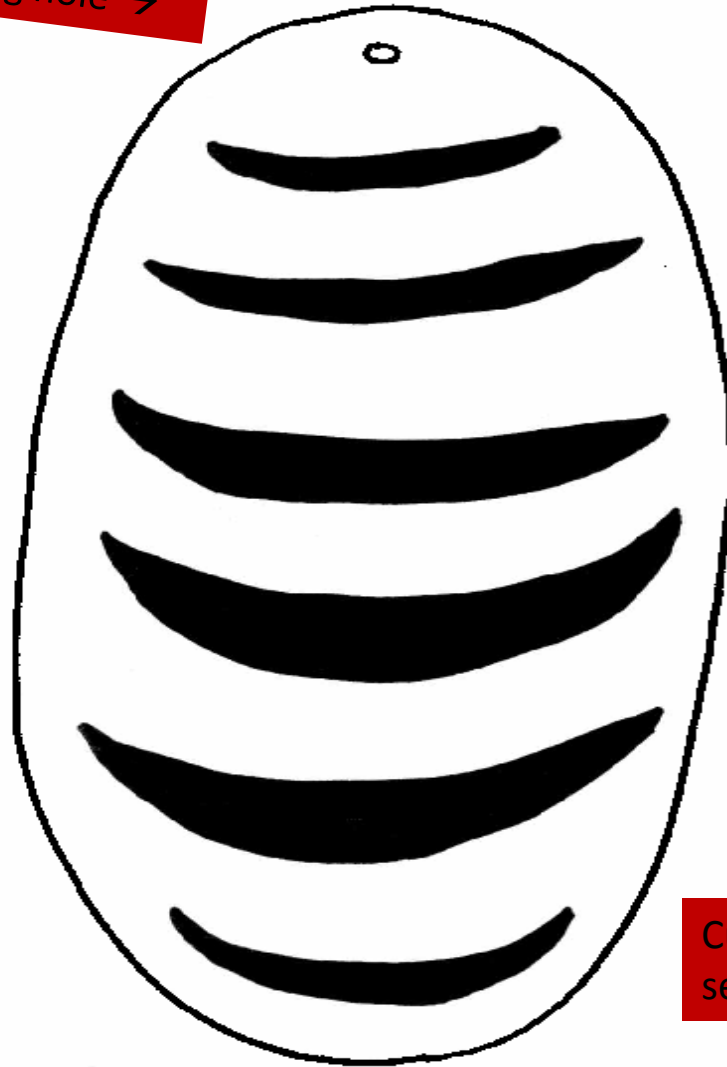
Directions for Assembling Beaks

Here's another option. Once you have assembled the beak, you can laminate it and it will last much longer. However, you will not be able to use the string to tie the beak around the mouth, so you will have to hold it up to your face. We prefer the non-laminated version as it is more interactive.



Gills Template

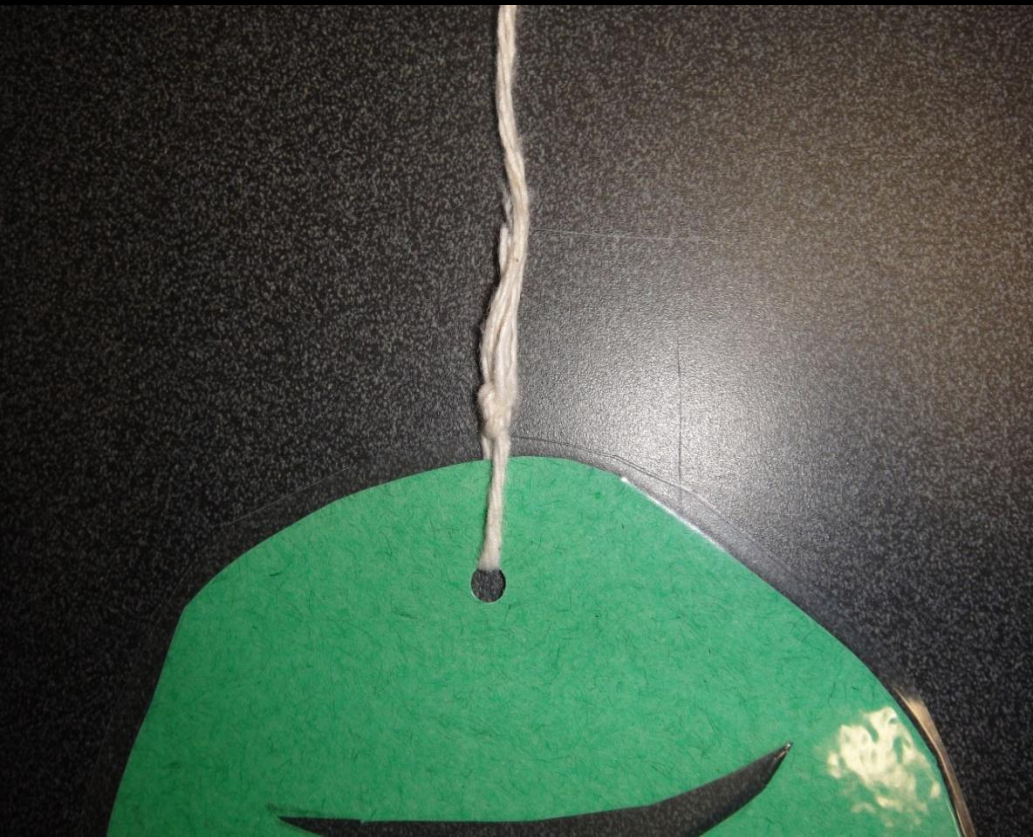
string hole →



Cut out the black sections

Directions for Assembling Gills

- ❖ You will need two gill templates per fish.
- ❖ Cut out the black sections and laminate each gill. Do not cut out the black sections again after laminating. Once laminated, cut out the string hole.
- ❖ Tie and knot string through the string hole of one gill with about 18 inches of slack. Then tie and knot the other end of that string to the other gill.



Directions for Assembling Gills

Voilà, you have gills!!!

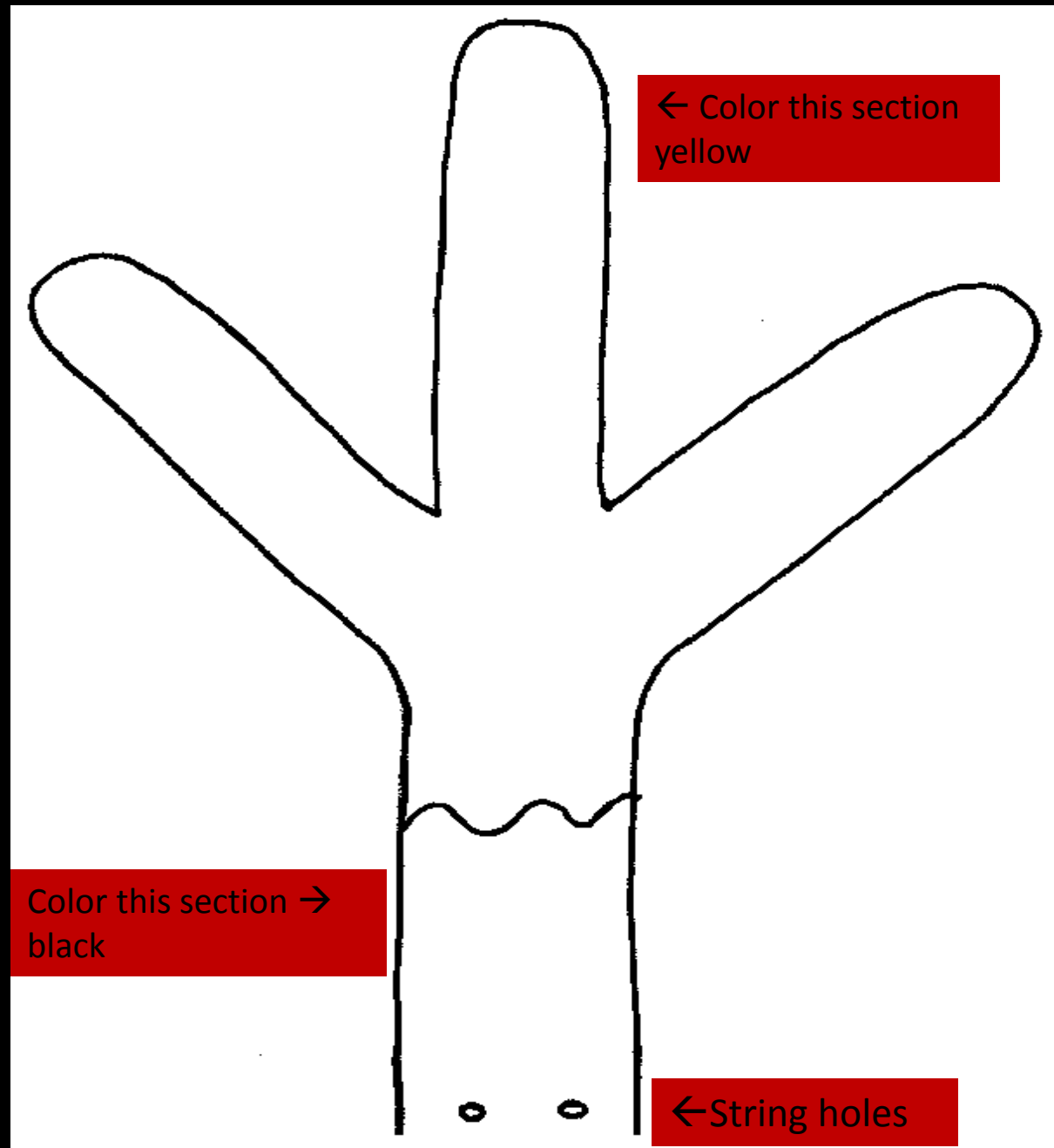
Use green for mosquito fish and beige for pike killifish (or make up your own colors).



Place the gills around the neck resting on the chest.



Snowy Egret Feet Template



Directions for Assembling Feet

- ❖ Use yellow construction paper and color in the black section (the legs) with a black marker. If you only have white paper, you can always color both sections.
- ❖ Laminate the feet and cut-out the string holes.
- ❖ Cut a string about 20 inches long.

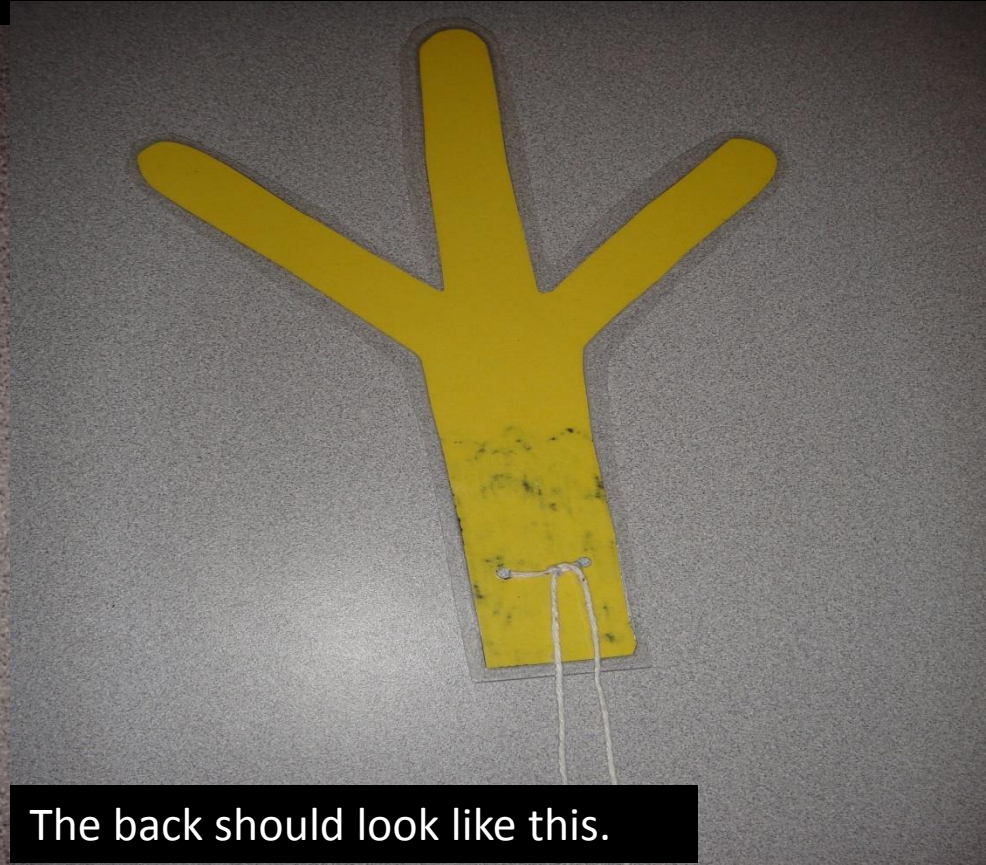
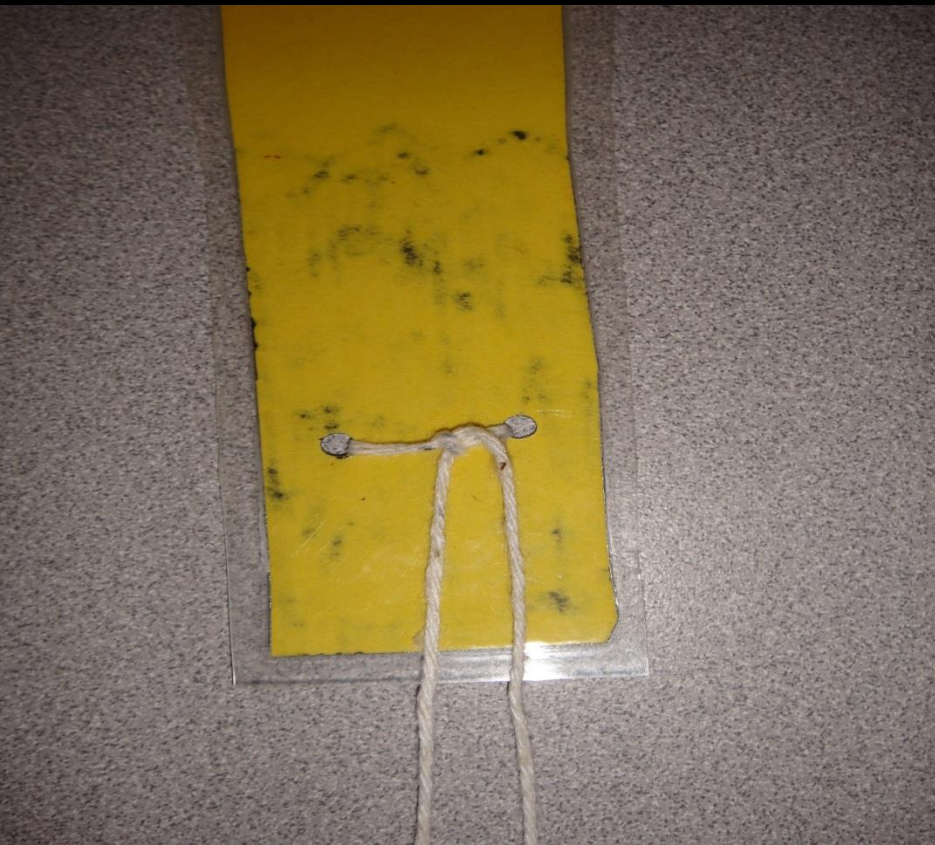


Thread the string up through one hole and down through the other hole, so both strands end up on the back side.

Directions for Assembling Feet

Voilà, you have Snowy Egret feet!!!

Align both strands evenly and tie a knot to secure in place.



The back should look like this.

Directions for Assembling Feet

The feet should be tied around the knees or ankles.



Directions for Assembling Proboscis

- ❖ Use black and red pipe cleaners.
- ❖ Wrap end of a pipe cleaner around string (preferably wax string), then tie a knot with the string.



Directions for Assembling Proboscis

Voilà, you have a mosquito proboscis!!!

A very surprised mosquito!



Cut red pipe cleaner in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pieces. Apply some glue to the other end of the pipe cleaner and attach the red piece (the victim's blood) by twisting it around the tip.



Directions for Assembling a Human

This has to be the easiest of all! Get some type of visor and write the word HUMAN on it. Voilà, you have a human!!!

*This is a Foamies visor, which works great with this activity and costs under a \$1.00. You can usually find them in the crafts section of a store.



Ready, Set, Go!

Now, that you have completed all the hard work, go on and have a “DRAMATICALLY” good time!!! 😊

Oh, but wait, we did say... “and more” ...didn’t we?

Melaleuca Costume

If you REALLY want to get into the swing of things invasive and you have some extra time or helpers...give this costume a try! Works well with the Population Explosion activity in the Don't Let it Loose guide or can be used with any other invasive species activity!



Melaleuca Costume

The essential seed bag. It better be big and full, because I can store millions and millions of seeds!



I can't wait to start dispersing my seeds all over the 'glades!

Seed bag with ↑
tons of seeds

Melaleuca Costume

And lastly, the hat or treetop, of course...which consists of a baseball cap, leaves, and SEEDS!



That's all folks!

Thank you for being part of the team fighting invasive species in South Florida and worldwide!